



May 2005

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Gillmor Washington Update

As your Representative in Congress, I am proud to represent Ohio's Fifth Congressional District in Washington, DC.

In order to keep the citizens of the Fifth District better informed and up to date on my activities in Washington, DC and back home in Ohio, I have published the May edition of my monthly newsletter. It is my goal to provide you with the information you need to stay informed on the issues important to Ohio. In this edition of my Monthly Update, I have focused on the important events that have taken place in the month of April and inform you of upcoming May events in the Fifth District. I hope that you will find this information beneficial. Please contact me should you have any questions or comments.

April Town Meetings a Huge Success

In April, I conducted four town meetings across the Fifth District in New London, Grand Rapids, Stryker and Republic. While the demands of the Congressional schedule make it difficult to schedule these meetings, I am always very glad to have such an opportunity to visit with you and discuss the future of our area.



Congressman Gillmor discusses the impact of legislation from the federal government on the Fifth District at his town meeting in Stryker.

The town meetings in Huron, Wood, Williams and Seneca Counties allowed me to hear directly from you and your neighbors on the job Congress is doing for Northwest Ohio and the issues that you feel are most important to our nation.

I heard many different viewpoints and was pleased to have lively discussions in all four town meetings. Among the many topics we discussed were the complicated tax code, increasing illegal immigration, rising energy costs and the inability of our U.S. Senate to pass many meaningful pieces of legislation due to their ineffective rules requiring a super majority of 60 Senators to support a vote on legislation.

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In this edition of *The Gillmor Bulletin* you will find articles on the work the U.S. House has done to secure a national comprehensive energy policy. This was a key topic at each of the town meetings and I am supportive of many measures to relieve our rising costs. There was also much discussion from your neighbors on their fears concerning our national security. The Fifth District has fared very well from federal grants for first responders to handle potential attacks and I am happy to work with local officials to assist in accessing these monies.



Congressman Gillmor is shown listening to the concerns of a constituent at his town meeting in Republic.

Of course, retirement security was also a hot topic at each of the town meetings in the Fifth District. I was happy to discuss some of the proposals which are pending for strengthening Social Security. I am very grateful for the many letters and stories you and your neighbors have shared about the good Social Security has done for you. As this debate continues, I will keep your thoughts in mind as Congress attempts to continue the success of Social Security for our children and grandchildren.

I appreciated hearing all the comments made at our April town meetings and in my visits with local officials and other community residents. I will keep them in mind as the House continues our business in the Capitol. In fact, I always look forward to hearing from my constituents via phone, email, or letter and would strongly encourage you to contact me about the issues which are most important to you and your families. Keeping in touch with you is essential to my service as your representative in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Dining in Defiance

Prior to my town meeting in Stryker, I also had the opportunity to speak with township, city, and officials from Defiance County. I am greatly indebted to your local officials who keep me abreast of the issues they are facing in our local community governments.



Congressman Gillmor discusses local issues with elected officials in Defiance

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While at Kissners Restaurant in Defiance, I met with many local representatives to discuss the impact of federal legislation on our communities. The actions taken in Washington at the federal level have an important impact on the Fifth District of Ohio and I value the opinions of local officials on the issues we are considering and other topics important to the communities of Ohio's Fifth District.

A few of the important issues I discussed with officials from across Defiance County include the Highway Bill and transportation funding for Defiance, the Energy Bill and funding for local law enforcement. Each person provided very useful information and many different thoughts on the future of our district.

U.S. House Creates a National Energy Plan- Now it's the Senate's Turn

For the fourth time in five years, the U.S. House of Representatives has passed a comprehensive national energy policy. The Energy Bill, similar to legislation passed last year, had passed in the 108th Congress by a vote of 58-40 in the Senate. Unfortunately, Senate rules require a 60 vote supermajority for passage of major legislation. As a member of the Energy and Commerce Committee and the sole Ohioan on the Energy Conference Committee, which is a select group of the House and Senate formed to work out a compromise on the Energy Bill in the 108th Congress, I am hopeful that the U.S. Senate will act quickly on this vital legislation.



There are many reasons why a national energy policy is critical to our nation. As the cost of filling our car's gas tank continues to cost over \$2 per gallon, the need to enhance production and conservation becomes increasingly vital. The Energy Bill, which the House has just passed, will promote a cleaner environment, provide

incentives for the production of renewable energy, establish efficiency standards and improve electricity transmission and reliability. It is estimated that the Energy Bill may create as many as a half million new jobs while increasing oil production, protecting our nation against another blackout, controlling fertilizer costs and benefiting Northwest Ohio.

Most importantly, while the prospects of exploring for energy, increasing production and efficiently using our oil resources is promising, the most lasting impact of the Energy Bill will come in the area of renewable fuels. Through incentives included in the Energy Bill, renewable energies such as biomass, wind, solar, geothermal and hydroelectric power may also become a more essential part of our energy plan. The inclusion of nearly \$2 billion for the Clean Coal Power Initiative to fund projects resulting in

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reduced pollution emissions will also assist our nation long into the future. This provision will be a major boost for Ohio, which is to coal what Saudi Arabia is to oil.

The Energy Bill will not have an immediate impact on gas prices. However, it will have a long term affect on our energy production and consumption, ultimately benefiting every American many times over. By creating thousands of American jobs and cutting costs for families and businesses, the national energy bill will be a bill of lasting importance.

I look forward to a healthy debate on the Energy Bill by the U.S. Senate and strive for a resolution to our mounting crisis. I am confident that the 100 members of the U.S. Senate will find in the Energy Bill provisions which promote conservation, efficiency and security. For more information on issues important to the Fifth District, please check my website at <http://www.house.gov/gillmor>.

More Support for the Toledo Air National Guard Base

As you may know, we are currently in the middle of the fifth and final round of the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) process. This process is the non-partisan means by which the Department of Defense (DoD) re-configures its infrastructure and optimizes efficiency by reallocating personnel and eliminating excess physical capacity. This round of BRAC is the first time the DoD has examined National Guard Bases.

In January, I had the opportunity to tour the Toledo Air National Guard Base and received a briefing on the effectiveness and use of the unit. I also examined one of the 180th Fighter Wing's seventeen F-16 Fighting Falcons. At that time, I sent a letter to Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld to acknowledge the importance of the Base to our area and show the support of the Fifth District for the men and women serving Northwest Ohio.

In March, I scheduled a meeting with local officials and Philip Grone, Deputy Undersecretary for Installations and Environment, Acquisition, Technology and Logistics. I was accompanied to the meeting by Toledo Mayor Jack Ford, representatives of the Toledo Area Chamber of Commerce, Bob Decker, Retired Squadron Commander of the 180th Fighter Wing, and Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur.

This month, I continued my support for the Toledo Air National Guard Base by sending a letter of support to former Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Anthony Principi, chairman of the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Commission. Although much of the 'politics' has



Congressman Gillmor takes a firsthand look inside an F-16 at the Toledo Air National Guard Base

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been taken out of the BRAC process, I felt it was important to continue stressing our support for the Base to the Department of Defense. There are bases across the country which do not have the support of the community, and that is certainly not the case with our Base. In fact, I have received over 450 letters of support for the Base from constituents across Northwest Ohio.

After sending my initial letter of support for the Toledo Guard Base to Defense Secretary Rumsfeld, I felt it was important to continue advocating for the base with the BRAC Commission. In addition, I attended a meeting this month between the Toledo Chamber and General Dan James, Director of the Air National Guard.

In my letter to Secretary Principi, I wrote, "Northwest Ohio is truly an ideal location for the Toledo Air National Guard Base. Our area's low cost of living, quality and affordable healthcare, access to excellent post-secondary education and easy access by air, rail, sea, and surface transportation has made Northwest Ohio a perfect fit for the Base." In addition, I told Secretary Principi, "The Base provides vital support to the people of Northwest Ohio. The community and I remain committed to providing the support necessary to secure the future of our Guard Base."

Your Congressman: Receiving the Public Radio Leadership Award

In May, I was honored to receive the *The 2005 Public Radio Leadership Award* from the Board of Directors of National Public Radio (NPR). NPR is a privately supported, not-for-profit membership organization which produces and distributes news, talk and entertainment programming to 23 million Americans each week.



I was very pleased to receive The 2005 Public Radio Leadership Award from NPR. I am proud to serve as the Co-Chairman of the Congressional Public Broadcasting Caucus and I regularly enjoy the programming provided by National Public Radio.

Currently there are 31 NPR stations broadcasting from the State of Ohio including two within the Fifth District: WGBE FM 90.9 in Bryan and WGDE FM 91.9 in Defiance. As Co-Chairman of the Congressional Public Broadcasting Caucus, Gillmor leads a bipartisan group of more than 100 Members of Congress in support of public broadcasting.

Each week, National Public Radio services 23 million Americans by partnering with more than 780 independently operated public radio stations. Each station serves listeners with a combination of national and local programming.

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Increasing Deposit Insurance is Good for Local Communities

In May, legislation which I cosponsored to increase the current \$100,000 deposit insurance coverage to \$130,000 passed the U.S. House by a vote of 413 to 10. The bill, entitled the Deposit Insurance Reform Act of 2005, included major legislation which I sponsored to protect the assets of schools and municipalities across America.

My legislation provides in-state public deposits with increased Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) coverage levels. The legislation would ensure FDIC insurance coverage for 80 percent of the public deposit beyond the standard level of FDIC coverage (currently \$100,000 per deposit) up to two million dollars.

Currently, towns, counties and school districts are faced with a hard choice when deciding where to place their deposits. Our local officials care about their communities and want to place community money in local banks. However, without guaranteed FDIC coverage, communities often must put money in large out-of-state institutions. By providing this increased coverage, we are ensuring that money which came from people in the community stays in the community to contribute to the local economy. This will enable local banks to offer more loans for cars, homes, education and other needs.

In 2002, the FDIC closed the Oakwood Deposit Bank in Oakwood, Ohio due to fraud. As a result of the \$100,000 cap in coverage, many local municipalities and other public entities had deposits at risk. The community of Oakwood as well as Wayne Trace Local Schools and the Paulding County Hospital continue to feel the effects of this failure.

By passing this legislation, we are empowering our communities to keep valuable deposits in our local economies while protecting taxpayer funds. The Federal Deposit Insurance Reform Act of 2005 awaits action by the U.S. Senate.



Congressman Gillmor talks with students from Bettsville Middle School on the steps of the U.S. Capitol Building. District schools such as Bettsville will benefit from the increased FDIC coverage.

Drive Slowly through the Village of Sycamore

While I was traveling across the District for conducting my April town meeting schedule, I had the opportunity to visit the staff and officers

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in the Police Department of the Village of Sycamore. The department recently used a grant from the Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services to purchase two car radar systems and nine new bullet proof vests.

I was pleased to send a letter of support for the Sycamore Police Department grant and enjoyed viewing the equipment the Village was able to purchase with these funds. Much of the

funding for law enforcement and first responders has been given to large departments in urban areas across the country. And yet, rural areas such as those in Wyandot County and across the Fifth District can serve as a pipeline for criminals. By using back roads and traveling through small towns, some crooks have been able to avoid capture.

The officers of the Sycamore Police Department must feel an increased confidence in fighting crime when armed with radar guns and protected by bullet proof vests. I was pleased to give my support for this grant and am glad the government was able to help the Village of Sycamore.



Congressman Gillmor poses with officers from the Sycamore Police Department after examining a bullet proof vest and radar gun purchased through a government grant.

Gillmor Staff Coming to McClure and Leipsic in May

One of my goals as Congressman is to make sure that casework services are readily available to all my constituents. Unfortunately, the size of our sixteen county district makes travel to my Defiance, Tiffin, or Norwalk offices prohibitive for many. In order to ensure that my staff is accessible to all my constituents, I have scheduled casework onsite in Henry and Putnam Counties as follows:

Wednesday, May 18, 2005

10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

McClure Public Library
145 West Haley Street

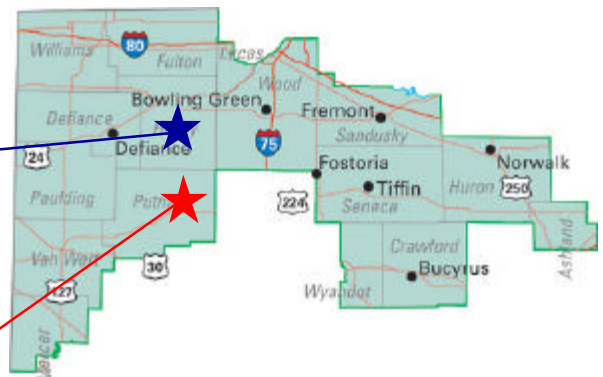
McCLURE

Wednesday, May 18, 2005

12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Village of Leipsic
Village Hall
134 West Main Street

LEIPSIC



If you are in the area, I encourage you to stop by and my staff will be happy to assist you with any problems you are having with the fed-

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Contact Me

If you have any suggestions on topics you would like to see addressed in my monthly updates, require any additional information, or would like to inform me of your views on matters concerning the federal government, please contact me anytime in Washington, D.C. or in any of my Ohio offices.

If you wish to forward your questions or concerns via U.S. mail, please address your correspondence to one of my Ohio offices as mail sent to the Longworth House Office Building in Washington is subject to a lengthy screening process and may not reach my office in a timely manner. You will find additional information on issues of federal concern on my website at <http://gillmor.house.gov>.